

**CLAY MATHIS**

**18-2292**

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION REPORT

PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA

COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE # 18-32071

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

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Re: CLAY MATHIS

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**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:**

- I. Hanging
  - A. Found suspended with a bed sheet around the neck, per investigative report and medical record
  - B. Anoxic brain injury, per medical record
- II. Abrasions of the extremities

**CAUSE OF DEATH:**

Hanging

**MANNER OF DEATH:**

Suicide

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**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:**

An external examination is performed on the body of Clay Mathis at the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner on September 18, 2018, commencing at 1000 hours. Assisting with the examination are Pathology Assistants Kerry Calvert, Gabriel Costell, and Kayla Hare. Attending the examination is Detective Davidson with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office. Documentary photographs are taken by Forensic Pathologist Jennifer G. Chen, M.D. and Detective Davidson. Specimens are packaged and labeled by Kayla Hare.

**PRESENTATION OF THE BODY:**

The body is received in the supine position within a white body bag with intact blue Pima seal numbered 19393. The body is clad in a hospital gown worn about the torso. No personal effects accompany the body.

**EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL INTERVENTION:**

- 1) Hospital bands encircle the left wrist.
- 2) Intravascular catheters are in the left antecubital fossa and left hand.
- 3) An intravascular catheter is in the right wrist.
- 4) A catheter exits the urethra.

**EVIDENCE OF ORGAN AND TISSUE PROCUREMENT:**

None.

**POSTMORTEM CHANGES:**

The previously refrigerated body is cool to the touch. Rigor mortis is well developed and difficult to break. Postmortem lividity is distributed posteriorly, except in regions exposed to pressure, and blanches with pressure. The corneas are clear. The lips and mucous membranes of the mouth are moist. The body is well preserved.

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

This is the unembalmed body of an adult male with medium complexion, appearing consistent with the reported age of 30 years, measuring approximately 71 inches in length and weighing 284 pounds. The body is normally developed and appears well nourished. The decedent has an obese body habitus. Monochromatic tattoos are on the posterior surfaces of the upper arms and on the chest.

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The head is normocephalic. The head hair is black, tightly curled and short, measuring approximately 1/4 inch. Facial hair on the cheeks, chin, and upper lip forms a beard and mustache. The face is symmetric. The facial bones and mandible are free of palpable fracture. The irides appear brown. The sclerae are anicteric. The conjunctivae are pink and show no congestion. Neither ocular nor facial petechiae are identified. The nose is in the midline and the nares are clear. The ears are grossly unremarkable. The oral cavity is grossly unremarkable. The teeth are natural and are in a good state of repair. The trachea is palpable in the midline of the neck and no masses are appreciated. The chest is symmetric. The abdomen is rounded and soft to palpation. The surface of the back is free of injury.

The extremities are symmetrical and well developed. The appendicular skeleton is stable to palpation. No fractures are evident by visual inspection or manipulation. The hands and feet are normally formed. All the digits are present. The fingernails are short and contain underlying dirt. There is no pitting edema of the lower extremities.

The external genitalia are those of an adult male. The testes are palpable within the scrotum. The inguinal regions, anorectal area, and buttocks are grossly unremarkable.

#### **EVIDENCE OF ACUTE INJURY:**

##### **Evidence of Hanging:**

Per investigative report, the decedent was found suspended by a bed sheet encircling the neck. A 17 x 4 cm brown abrasion is on the anterior and right side of the neck. The abrasion crosses the anterior neck at the level of the thyroid cartilage and proceeds somewhat horizontally across the right side of the neck. Per medical record, the decedent suffered anoxic brain injury.

##### **Other Injuries:**

Faint linear red abrasions on the right antecubital fossa cover a 13 x 3 cm region. There are scattered small red abrasions on the right knee, right foot, and left shin.

#### **RADIOGRAPHS:**

No radiographs are taken.

#### **TOXICOLOGY:**

No specimens are submitted for toxicologic testing. No hospital admission blood specimens are received.